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Acropolis Rally Greece: Double WRC2 victory for ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo driver Emil Lindholm

- › Reigning Finnish Rally Champions Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen dominate WRC2 and WRC2 Junior at the FIA World Rally Championship's tenth round
- › With seventh position reigning WRC2 champion Andreas Mikkelsen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) defends lead in category overall standings
- › Armin Kremer from Germany, a former FIA European Rally Champion at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, wins WRC2 Masters class for the third time this season

Athens (GRC), 11 September 2022 – After winning WRC2 at Acropolis Rally Greece, ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo driver Emil Lindholm from Finland not only takes back the overall lead in the WRC2 Junior standings. He is also a late entry into the chase for the WRC2 Drivers' championship. In the overall standings, Lindholm closes the gap to current leader Andreas Mikkelsen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Norway to 20 points.

After their home victory in Finland, Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen won WRC2 for the second time during the 2022 season. Driving a Toksport WRT run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, they dominated the category during Acropolis Rally Greece, tenth round of the FIA World Rally Championship. After 16 gruelling gravel stages, they reached the finish ramp with a lead of 36 seconds. At the same time, Lindholm won WRC2 Junior, regaining the overall lead in the class reserved for drivers 30 years and younger.

With this victory, Lindholm also enters the circle of possible WRC2 Drivers' champions. He trails current overall leader Andreas Mikkelsen from Norway, who also drives for ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT, by 20 points. But in contrast to Mikkelsen, who has already reached his maximum of seven points scoring events, Lindholm can enter two more rallies.

Acropolis Rally Greece was as tough as expected. High summer temperatures and rough gravel stages put crews and cars to their limits. Unimpressed by the conditions, Lindholm/Hämäläinen took the WRC2 lead on the first proper stage on Friday morning and never looked back. "We won this rally on our pace and I am so happy, honestly," Lindholm beamed. "I knew when we came here that it could be a good rally for us, but there are always question marks and lots of risks. We really managed it well and I am very grateful to the team for providing us with a car which could survive in these conditions."

Next placed ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews in WRC2 were Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov in second and Norwegians Eyvind Brynildsen/Roger Eilertsen in fourth. Former FIA Asian-Pacific Rally Champion Gaurav Gill from India and co-driver Gabriel Morales from Brasil reached the finish in sixth position.

Unfortunately, defending WRC2 champion Andreas Mikkelsen was out of contention for victory already after the opening stage on Thursday evening. The Norwegian hit a concrete barrier inside the Athens Olympic Stadium, resulting in a broken suspension and a time penalty of ten minutes. After the Toksport WRT mechanics had repaired the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Mikkelsen and co-

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driver Torstein Eriksen bounced back by posting eleven fastest WRC2 times during the 16 stages. They managed to climb back to seventh position. With the nine championship points, Mikkelsen defended his lead in the WRC2 overall rankings.

WRC2 Masters, the class reserved for drivers 50 years and older, developed into a lonely affair for former European Rally Champion Armin Kremer. Navigated by Rally Dakar winning co-driver Timo Gottschalk, he clearly was a cut above the rest of the field. Sharing a Baumschlager Rallye&Racing run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, the German crew was more than 14 minutes ahead of everybody else at the finish.

From Greece, the FIA World Rally Championship travels to the other side of the globe to Rally New Zealand. Top ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew at the Auckland based gravel event will be Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak from Poland. Triple European Rally Champion Kajetanowicz, absent from Acropolis Rally Greece, has the chance to close the gap to WRC2 overall leader Andreas Mikkelsen.

Result Acropolis Rally Greece (WRC2)

1. Lindholm/Hämäläinen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 3:42:38.6 hrs
2. Gryazin/Aleksandrov (ANA/ANA), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +36.1 sec
3. Tsouloftas/Whitlock (GRC/GBR), Volkswagen Polo GTI Rally2, +3:07.2 min
4. Brynildsen/Eilertsen (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +3:10.1 min
5. Zaldivar/Der Ohannesian (PRY/ARG), Hyundai i20N Rally2, +5:19.0 min

Number of the rally: 11

ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew Andreas Mikkelsen/Torstein Eriksen were WRC2 fastest on eleven of the 16 stages and also on the rally-ending Powerstage. After incurring a ten minutes time penalty due to not reaching the service on Thursday evening, they finished the rally seventh in WRC2 less than eight minutes behind category winners and Toksport WRT teammates Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen.

Top-5 overall WRC2 Open/Drivers (after 10 of 13 rounds)

1. Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 109 points
2. Emil Lindholm (FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 89 points
3. Johan Rossel (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 80 points
4. Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 76 points
5. Nikolay Gryazin (ANA), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 72 points

Top-3 overall WRC2 Junior (after 10 of 13 rounds)

1. Emil Lindholm (FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 108 points
2. Chris Ingram (GBR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 92 points
3. Nikolay Gryazin (ANA), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 81 points

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ŠKODA Motorsport at Acropolis Rally Greece

Emil Lindholm and co-driver Reeta Hämäläinen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) of Team Toksport WRT win WRC2 with a margin of 36 seconds.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Acropolis Rally Greece

Team Toksport WRT celebrates the WRC2 victory of Emil Lindholm and co-driver Reeta Hämäläinen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) on the finish ramp.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Acropolis Rally Greece

Norwegian Toksport WRT crew Andreas Mikkelsen/Torstein Eriksen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) finished seventh in WRC2 despite losing ten minutes during the first leg.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Acropolis Rally Greece

Toksport WRT stand-ins Eyvind Brynildsen/Roger Eilertsen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Norway made it to the finish fourth in WRC2.

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Indian Gaurav Gill and Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) reached the finish sixth in WRC2.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Acropolis Rally Greece

Former European Rally Champion Armin Kremer and co-driver Timo Gottschalk from Germany dominated WRC2 Masters in a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of team Baumschlager Rallye&Racing.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport

- › ŠKODA has been active in motorsport since 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the ŠKODA 130 RS.
- › In recent years, the ŠKODA FABIA celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide. From 2009 to 2014, the ŠKODA FABIA S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The ŠKODA FABIA S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The ŠKODA FABIA R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) continued the S2000's success story in 2015. In the following years, ŠKODA Motorsport factory drivers took multiple titles in the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro with the models ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. Titles went to Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE), Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) and Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR). Supported by ŠKODA Motorsport, Toksport WRT became Team Champion of the WRC2 category in 2020.
- › ŠKODA Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC).
- › In 2021, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR, Toksport WRT) took the WRC2 Drivers' Championship and the FIA European Rally Championship overall at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.
- › By the end of the 2021 season, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo had secured over 1,500 victories and more than 3,700 podium positions in 65 countries.

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- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in India, Russia and North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV and KUSHAQ.
- › delivered over 870,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2021.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.

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